

and dedicated to finding the cowards who continue to attack democracy and take the lives of innocent civilians. As co-chair of the Victory in Iraq Caucus, I am extremely proud of their success. By capturing and killing terrorists in Iraq, our troops are protecting American families from terrorists who threaten our freedoms and our way of life.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the Violence Against Women Act has made a great difference for countless women and their families when confronting violence, and VAWA has made a significant difference in the health and happiness of hundreds of thousands of women, children and families.

With one in four women in this country experiencing domestic violence, clearly much more remains to be done. So we cannot abandon our commitment to them and to the women around the world.

Women have every right to feel safe in their own homes. They also deserve to know that law enforcement and health officials are equipped to deal with their special needs in these tragic situations, and we must include teaching young people that bullying and violence must be avoided. We must teach them how to handle situations of conflict and anger in other ways besides bullying and violence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the reauthorization of VAWA to ensure these protections and make sure that resources are available.

#### HONORING DR. DAVID BUSHMAN

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, September 30, 2005, is a significant day in American higher education. This day marks Dr. David W. Bushman's inauguration as the 13th president of Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina.

Lees-McRae College is an institution of which the entire Nation can be proud. For 105 years, it has prepared young men and women to take their places as productive citizens. Committed to leadership and service, Lees-McRae is an integral part of the larger community, putting into practice its historic motto, "In the mountains, for the mountains."

David W. Bushman is an outstanding scholar, educator and administrator. Under his leadership, Lees-McRae College reaffirms its commitment to academic excellence in the liberal arts tradition and to the moral and civic education of its students.

As David Bushman assumes the presidency of Lees-McRae College, I extend

sincere congratulations to him and to the college. As President Bushman and Lees-McRae College begin this new chapter in their history, they do so with my best wishes for continued success.

#### REPUBLICANS FAKING THEIR WAY THROUGH INQUIRY

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday House Republicans convened their partisan investigation into what went wrong in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It is clear Republicans want to fix all blame on the back of former FEMA director Michael Brown.

Republicans were willing to ask tough questions yesterday, but that is simply not enough. For 5 years now, House Republicans have ignored their oversight responsibilities of the Bush administration. Are we now supposed to believe that House Republicans will conduct an investigation that will not only determine what exactly went wrong but also how we can prevent such a slow response from ever happening again?

The New York Times said that Washington is faking a Katrina inquiry. The paper determined that a government dominated by one party should be disqualified from investigating itself. Democrats here in the House strongly agree.

We simply will not be a part of a sham investigation. The American people want real answers, not a cover-up. An overwhelming 87 percent of Americans are demanding an independent commission similar to the 9/11 Commission.

#### MEDICARE D

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of a new Medicare part D prescription drug benefit that is available to all seniors beginning January 1, 2006.

This week, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid released information on organizations offering prescription drug plans in each of our 50 States, and the opportunity for sign-up begins November 15.

This announcement holds great news for seniors across America. In every State, seniors will have a choice among plan providers. In my home State of Georgia, for example, seniors will be able to choose from 18 different plans, ensuring they can find one that best suits their individual needs.

Mr. Speaker, there is more good news for our seniors. Not only will they be eligible for prescription drug coverage from a range of organizations, but they will receive this benefit for less money than previously expected, in some

cases, for a premium as low as \$20 a month. This is the power of competition, and our seniors will benefit from it. We do not need government price controls. The free market works.

Mr. Speaker, for years, our seniors have struggled with the rising cost of prescription drugs, in some cases going without medicine they need to stay healthy. With Medicare part D, seniors will be able to reap the benefits of preventive care and live longer, healthier lives.

#### RECOVERY FROM HURRICANES

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues this morning to begin to look at the recovery of Hurricane Katrina, and support thereof to include Hurricane Rita. Just spending 4 days in the region, a number of them at the Transtar Hurricane Emergency Center day and night, I can tell my colleagues that the frustration that is reflected in the Houston Chronicle, FEMA faulted yet again, and of course, that in The Washington Post, evacuees urged to stay away, is only a limited story of what we have faced in that region.

Going into the region directly hit just yesterday, I can tell my colleagues, as the local officials wanted me to say, there is no food, there is no water, there is no ice. They need help—they need leadership from the Federal Government. There are trucks parked on hotel parking lots that cannot be opened to share food because the military has not yet been directed to arrive to unload the trucks.

This is not a finger pointed in the direction of local officials. It is a finger pointed with a singular question: Who is in charge? When you are ordered to evacuate and there is no order, who is in charge?

An independent inquiry, a widespread understanding of how we can secure the homeland is absolutely imperative.

#### OPERATION OFFSET

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Katrina breaks my heart. When I consider the tragic aftermath of this extraordinary storm, now 1 month hence, I cannot help but think of that person in the Bible who speaks of how the rains came down, the winds blew and beat against the house, the floodwaters rose, and the house fell with a great crash.

Congress is now involved in a critical debate about relief and rebuilding and how we will pay for what could be hundreds of billions of dollars in recovery and reconstruction of the gulf coast.

Last week, House conservatives offered their own plan, a series of budget